



# Sen. Joyce Mulliken's UPDATE FROM OLYMPIA 1/12/04

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**Committee Assignments**  
Land Use & Planning (Chair)  
Highways & Transportation  
Commerce & Trade

#### IMPORTANT DATES:

##### **Monday, Jan. 12**

First day of 2004 regular session!

##### **Tuesday, Jan. 13**

3:30 pm – Governor Locke's final "state of the union" address.

##### **Thursday, Jan. 15**

1:30 pm – Senate Land Use & Planning Committee to hold work session on the growth management's impact on private property and economic development.

6:00 pm – Joint House and Senate Agriculture Committee hearing on Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) or "mad cow" disease.

Dear Friends,

I heard so many of you tell me this past interim how much you appreciated receiving my weekly updates from Olympia. Well, as the 2004 Legislative Session begins let me tell you how much I appreciate your comments, your support, your interest and feedback. Representing you these many years in Olympia has been such an honor and privilege.

I want to take a few moments to introduce you to my staff. These individuals will work long hours these next couple of months on my – and your – behalf.

Many of you who have called my office already know Kyle Lynch. Kyle has been working in the office since January of last year. He first began working with me as a student at Central Washington University. Working through the College Republicans and the Central Washington Student Lobby, Kyle successfully lobbied a Bill I sponsored banning the use of Social Security numbers for student ID. When not in session Kyle works out of our office in Ephrata.

Rose DeRenzo has come out of retirement to serve as my session aide. She is a resident of Moses Lake and formerly a Legislative Assistant to Reps. Gary Chandler and Sarah Casada. She is a graduate of Madonna University in Michigan. In her open time she substitutes in the Moses Lake school district.

Carlos Mendez is from Wapato, Washington and is finishing his last year in his American Cultural studies program from Heritage College. As part of his study, he is doing his internship with my office. His future plans are to study Law or go on to Graduate school.

Again, my staff is here to serve you. They will work to the best of their abilities to see to it that the 13<sup>th</sup> district has the best possible representation here in Olympia.

While we are not facing the same \$2.7 billion budget shortfall as last session, we must still keep our eyes on the fiscal responsibility and the "priorities of government" method that proved so successful last year. Governor Locke has already announced his Supplemental Budget proposal this year but I have some serious concerns.

The Supplemental Budget is for funding unexpected increases in DSHS, corrections, K-12, etc. However, the governor has proposed several new spending initiatives without providing any savings to pay for them. His proposal will take \$339 million out of our state's reserve fund, taking it down to a dangerously low \$172 million, and add approximately \$300 million to the projected \$1.5 billion shortfall we'll be facing in 2005. There is virtually no effort to control costs in his budget proposal!

I'll keep you informed on other budget proposals and other issues of interest to the 13<sup>th</sup> district as they crop up.

Sincerely,

Sen. Joyce Mulliken, 13<sup>th</sup> Legislative District